

## Weekly Field Memo – May 14, 2014

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### TOPICS:

- [News & Updates](#)
  - [Conferences](#)
  - [Standards & Assessments](#)
  - [Other Education News from Our Partners](#)
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### NEWS & UPDATES:

#### New England Assessment Consortium Formed by VT, NH and CT

**Audience: All**

Following the example set by the NECAP program, Vermont has joined with Connecticut and New Hampshire to form the New England Assessment Consortium. Last week the three states posted a joint RFP seeking a contractor to manage implementation of the new Smarter Balanced assessments for the consortium. The states are anticipating significant cost savings based on the economy of scale that will result from the multi-state partnership.

**Contact:** Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us)

#### US ED Announces Green Ribbon Schools: Camels Hump Middle School, CVU & Lake Region UHS

**Audience: All**

"Today's honorees are modeling a comprehensive approach to being green by encompassing facility, wellness and learning into their daily operations," said Secretary Duncan. Camels Hump Middle School, Champlain Valley Union High School, and Lake Region Union High School are Vermont's 2014 Green Ribbon Schools (GRS). [Click here](#) to read the press release. Learn more about Vermont's GRS [here](#).

#### Jay Hoffman selected as a member of the Model Code of Educator Ethics (MCEE) Task Force

**Audience: All**

Jay Hoffman, 2013 VT Teacher of the Year and Frederick H Tuttle Design & Technology Education teacher, was selected as a member of the Model Code of Educator Ethics (MCEE) Task Force, sponsored by [NASDTEC](#). [Click here](#) to read the press release.

**Contact:** Jay Hoffman, 802-999-7494 or [jhoffman@sbschools.net](mailto:jhoffman@sbschools.net)

#### "Why I Teach"

**Audience: All**

Want to hear why Vermont's Teachers of the Year teach? Check out these videos:

- Diana Leddy, 2009 VT Teacher of the Year: <http://bit.ly/RI4sJy>
- Craig Divis, 2010 VT Teacher of the Year: <http://bit.ly/1g65yyV>
- Diane Bahrenburg, 2008 VT Teacher of the Year: <http://bit.ly/1rZPxQd>
- Katie Sullivan, 2007 VT Teacher of the Year: <http://bit.ly/1g65Jdv>

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Vermont Teacher of the Year program.

**Contact:** Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us)

## AOE Communication

### Audience: All

Our press releases, field memos, calendar of events, and more are online: <http://bit.ly/11ajrtH>. View our strategic plan here: <http://bit.ly/1cZbMBP>. Connect with the AOE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

**Contact:** Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us)

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## CONFERENCES:

### MSP Grant Next Generation Science Leadership Institute

#### Audience: K-12 Science Teachers

Are you looking to develop leadership skills, improve understanding/application of the NGSS Cross Cutting Concepts in Physical, Life and Earth Science, and align your instruction to Common Core? This institute will take place in southwest VT (August 4-13). Learn more here: <http://msp.swvtccc.org/>.

**Contacts:** Maureen Maidrand, [mmaidrand@brsu.org](mailto:mmaidrand@brsu.org) or Pat Fitzsimmons, Math/Science Partnership Coordinator, 802- 476-1425 or [pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us](mailto:pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us)

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## STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS:



### English Language Arts/Literacy Web Page Highlights

#### Audience: K-12 Educators

Visit our English Language Arts/Literacy Resources page to access useful tools for connecting standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices. Check out the Common Core ELA Professional Development Modules, including the newest addition in the series, *"Integrating Close Reading Practices with Academic Writing"* here: [education.vermont.gov/common-core/english-language-arts/resources](http://education.vermont.gov/common-core/english-language-arts/resources).

**Contacts:** Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, 802-479-1405 or [lori.dolezal@state.vt.us](mailto:lori.dolezal@state.vt.us); Kris Breen, Middle/High School Literacy Coordinator, 802-479-1870 or [kris.breen@state.vt.us](mailto:kris.breen@state.vt.us)



### Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): FAQ

#### Audience: All

[Click here](#) to learn more about DLM. [Click here](#) to read past FAQs.

**Contact:** Cindy Moran, Alternate Assessment Coordinator, 802-479-1432 or [cindy.moran@state.vt.us](mailto:cindy.moran@state.vt.us)



### Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): FAQ

#### Audience: All

What is Science & Engineering Practice #2: Developing and Using Models? [Click here](#) to read the answer. Learn more about Science and NGSS here: <http://education.vermont.gov/science>.

**Contacts:** Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or [gail.hall@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.hall@state.vt.us); Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or [kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us](mailto:kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us)



### SMARTER Balanced Assessment

#### Audience: All

Learn more about the Field Test and what is happening in Vermont: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

**Contacts:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us); Frank Gerdeman, ISL -Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or [frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us](mailto:frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us)

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## **OTHER EDUCATION NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:**

### **State Board of Education: May Meeting**

#### **Audience: All**

The Board is meeting at Brattleboro Union High School on Tuesday, May 20. The agenda and materials are available online: <http://education.vermont.gov/state-board/schedule>.

**Contact:** Carol King, SBE Administrator, 802-479-1280 or [carol.c.king@state.vt.us](mailto:carol.c.king@state.vt.us)

### **Creating Opportunity: Gov. Shumlin Talks Education**

#### **Audience: All**

Vermont's future prosperity will be bright if we can take the great education system we have in Vermont and make it the best. During this legislative biennium we have improved education from the earliest years through professional training. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

**Contact:** Sue Allen, 802-828-3333 or [susan.allen@state.vt.us](mailto:susan.allen@state.vt.us)

### **Last Call for Vermont Writing Collaborative Summer Institute**

#### **Audience: All Vermont Teachers**

The annual Vermont Writing Collaborative Summer Institute is nearly full. We do still have a few places left, so if you are hoping to attend, PLEASE let us know as soon as possible. Lake Morey is a beautiful place to spend a Vermont week in June, and the company of one's fellow educators makes this a remarkable - and useful! - experience. Learn more here: [www.vermontwritingcollaborative.org](http://www.vermontwritingcollaborative.org).

**Contact:** Jane Miller, VT Writing Collaborative, 802-863-4284 or [info@vermontwritingcollaborative.org](mailto:info@vermontwritingcollaborative.org)

### **2014 National Green4Green Video Contest**

#### **Audience: Principals, Teachers, Janitors, Students, PTO**

#### **Deadline: June 2, 2014**

Top two videos selected will win \$4,000 each for their school or university. How to enter? Create a 3 minute video or shorter and describe how your school would use the \$4,000. Online voting for the favorite videos will determine the top two winners. Learn more here: <http://on.fb.me/RRFli2>. This is a great way to get some money for your school to meet the requirements of [VT's Universal Recycling law](#).

**Contact:** Bryn Oakleaf, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 802-522-5783 or [bryn.oakleaf@state.vt.us](mailto:bryn.oakleaf@state.vt.us)

### **Turn Your iPad Into a Powerful Video Production Studio**

#### **Audience: All Vermont Educators**

June 23-24 or August 6-7 workshops at RETN in Burlington. Learn ways to get the most out of your iPad to create powerful videos with your students. Sign up to receive hands-on training and expand your digital storytelling skills. Learn more and register here: <http://retn.org/iPadWorkshop>.

**Contact:** Doug Dunbebin, RETN, 802-654-7980 ext 24 or [doug@retn.org](mailto:doug@retn.org)

### **Vermont High School Students Take on Financial Literacy Challenge**

#### **Audience: All**

Ten Vermont high schools recently squared off in the sixth annual Vermont Treasury Cup Challenge. The South Burlington High School Rebels were awarded the large gold Challenge cup by State Treasurer Beth Pearce. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**Contact:** Lisa Helme, State Treasurer's Office, 802-828-3706 or [lisa.helme@state.vt.us](mailto:lisa.helme@state.vt.us)

### **Hildene Announces 2014 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Lincoln Essay Competition Winners**

**Audience:** All

[Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home](#), had a record number of submissions from around the state. [Click here](#) to see read this year's topic, the list of winners and the leaders who inspired them.

**Contact:** Stephanie Moffett Hynds, Hildene, 802-367-7960 or [Stephanie@hildene.org](mailto:Stephanie@hildene.org)

### **Maryland Teacher Named 2014 National Teacher of the Year**

**Audience:** All

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) announced that Sean McComb, a high school English teacher from Maryland, was named the 64th National Teacher of the Year. [Click here](#) to read the press release. [Click here](#) to watch the CBS coverage.

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This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the Agency will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us).

**Sign up for the weekly field memo here:** [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html)

Vermont Agency of Education | 219 North Main Street | Suite 402 | Barre, VT 05641

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